

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 55 are pending in the present application, with claims 30 to 55 having been withdrawn from consideration following Applicants' election in response to a restriction requirement. Claims 30 to 55 have been cancelled herein, and claims 2 and 3 have been amended herein. Claims 1 and 5 to 29 have been indicated to be allowable in the Office Action mailed December 15, 2003. Upon entry of the current amendment, claims 1 to 29 will be under examination.

Regarding the claim amendments

Claim 2 has been amended to replace step labels (e) and (f) with step labels (i) and (ii), and to indicate that creating (i) a source node and (ii) a terminal node further comprise step (b) of claim 1, which recites creating a node corresponding to a paired signal. This amendment groups the steps of creating a (i) source node and (ii) terminal node, as recited in claim 2, with the step of (b) creating a node corresponding to a paired signal, as recited in claim 1, for the sake of improved clarity, and adds no new matter.

Claim 3 has been amended to recite that claim (b) further comprises (iii) selecting a path from the source node to the terminus node. This amendment was made to indicate that (iii) selecting a path from the source node to the terminus mode is performed following creating the (i) source node and (ii) terminal node, for the sake of improved clarity. Thus, the amendment adds no new matter.

As set forth above, the claim amendments do not add new matter. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the amendments.

Regarding the claim objection

Claim 2 has been objected to for lacking a period. By the present response, claim 2 has been amended to correct this typographical error. Therefore, Applicants request removal of this objection to claim 2.

Regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The rejection of claims 2 to 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite is respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 has been rejected as allegedly indefinite for delineation of the recited steps as (e) and (f). The Office Action alleges that presentation of these steps is confusing as to the order in which they are to be performed. Claims 3 and 4 also have been rejected as allegedly indefinite in view of recitation of steps (e) and (f) in claim 2.

Regarding claim 2, Applicants have amended this claim to delineate the recited steps as (i) and (ii), rather than (e) and (f), to indicate that these steps need not be performed after step (d) of claim 1. Claim 2 also has been amended to group steps of creating a (i) source node and (ii) terminus node with the step of creating a node corresponding to a paired signal, as recited in claim 1, step (b).

Regarding claim 3, which recites “selecting a path from the source node to the terminus node,” the Office Action alleges that it is unclear what one is to do with the selected path, and questions whether the selected path is to be used in any of steps (a), (b), (c) or (d) of claim 1. Applicants point out that, as amended, claim 3 recites that step (b) further comprises (iii) selecting a path from the source node to the terminus node.

Regarding claim 4, Applicants submit that one skilled in the art would recognize as a matter of logic that the step of “computing a priority score for each path” would be performed after the step of “selecting a path from the source node to the terminus node,” as is recited in claim 3. For this reason, Applicants submit that claim 4 is clear and definite as written.

In view of the above remarks and amendments, Applicants submit that claims 2 and 4 are clear and definite, and respectfully request removal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments and remarks herein, Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request a notice to this effect. Should the Examiner have any questions, he is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.A. Gay", is written over the printed name.

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